



**Western Cape  
Government**

Environmental Affairs and  
Development Planning

Directorate: Development Management  
Region 1

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 16/3/3/6/4/2/1/F3/17/3345/15

**ENQUIRIES:** MS. K. ADRIAANSE

**DATE OF ISSUE:** 2015 -11- 2 0

The Director  
Mokgope Consulting cc  
P.O. Box 2363  
**HIGHLANDS NORTH**  
2037

**Attention: Ms. J. Fasheun**

Cell: (076) 876 2672

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Dear Madam

**COMMENTS ON THE AMENDED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (DEA REF. NO. 14/12/16/3/3/2/439) FOR THE PROPOSED 765 KV POWERLINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE HELIOS SUBSTATION (LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN CAPE) TO THE JUNO SUBSTATION (LOCATED IN THE WESTERN CAPE).**

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIAR") dated June 2014, received by the Department on 27 June 2014, this Directorate's comment dated 24 July 2014 (Ref. No. 16/3/1/6/6/F3/17/3153/14), the amended draft EIAR dated October 2015 and received by this Department on 21 October 2015 and 02 November 2015, respectively, refer.

Comments on the amended draft EIAR are as follows:

1. Listed Activities

1.1. It is noted that Activity 12 of GN No. R.546 of 18 June 2010 has been applied for. However, this listed activity is not triggered by the proposed development since the identified route alternatives will not be routed through a critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004) – National List of Ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection (Government Gazette No. 34809 of 09 December 2011); and

1.2. Your attention is drawn to Regulation 53(3) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 which states:

*"Where an application submitted in terms of the previous NEMA regulations, is pending in relation to an activity of which a component of the same activity was not identified under the previous NEMA notices, but is now identified in terms of section 24(2) of the Act, the competent authority must dispense of such application in terms of the previous NEMA regulation and may authorise the activity identified in terms of section 24(2) as if it was applied for, on condition that all impacts of the newly identified activity and requirements of these Regulations have also been considered and adequately assessed."* The similarly listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 must be included in the final EIAR.

## 2. Public Participation

- 2.1. The amended draft EIAR does not contain the comments provided by registered interested and affected parties on the draft EIAR (dated June 2014) and responses provided thereon. This must be included in the final EIAR;
- 2.2. The comments issued by this Directorate on 24 July 2014 (as attached) have not been addressed and are therefore still valid;
- 2.3. In light of the fact that the proposed development triggers Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), you are required to submit proof of the submission of the Notice of Intent to Develop to Heritage Western Cape ("HWC") and include the final comment from HWC in the final EIAR;
- 2.4. Comments from the Department of Water and Sanitation must be obtained and included in the final EIAR;
- 2.5. The Comments and Responses Report provided relates to comments received on the draft Scoping Report. As such, the comments received on the final Scoping Report, the draft EIAR and the amended draft EIAR must be provided in the final EIAR; and
- 2.6. Note that only a period of 29 days (i.e. from 22 October 2015 to 20 November 2015) was afforded to registered interested and affected parties to provide comment on the amended draft EIAR. In accordance with Section 24(O) of the NEMA, the minimum commenting period must be 30 days.

## 3. General

Please note that for all future applications requiring a comment from this Directorate, you will be required to submit at least 1 hard copy and 1 CD to this Directorate for commenting purposes. All figures must be printed in colour and must be legible.

This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw comments or request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

Copies to: (1) Ms. N. Mahlaba (Department of Environment Affairs)  
(2) Mr. A. Oosthuizen (WCG: EADP – Directorate: Development Facilitation)

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**Western Cape  
Government**  
Environmental Affairs and  
Development Planning

Directorate: Land Management  
Region 2

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 16/3/1/6/6/F3/17/3153/14  
**ENQUIRIES:** MS. K. ADRIAANSE

**DATE OF ISSUE:** 24 JUL 2014

The Director  
Department of Environmental Affairs ("DEA")  
Private Bag X447  
**PRETORIA**  
0001

**Attention: Ms. M. Solomons**

Tel: (012) 310 3036  
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Dear Madam

**COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (DEA REF. NO. 14/12/16//3/3/2/439) FOR THE PROPOSED 765 KV POWERLINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE HELIOS SUBSTATION (LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN CAPE) TO THE JUNO SUBSTATION (LOCATED IN THE WESTERN CAPE).**

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIAR") dated June 2014 and received by the Department on 27 June 2014, refers.

1. According to the information provided, this Directorate notes the following:
  - 1.1. The proposed development entails the construction of a 765kV powerline and associated infrastructure from the Helios substation (located in the Northern Cape) to the Juno substation (located in the Western Cape);
  - 1.2. The proposed 765kV powerline will be approximately 140km in length;
  - 1.3. An 80m wide servitude will be located along the route of the powerline;
  - 1.4. Various types of pylons will be used and will vary in height between 35 and 55m; and
  - 1.5. The powerline may traverse Critical Biodiversity Areas and various watercourses.
2. The following comments are related to the draft EIAR:
  - 2.1. Given that all the alternative corridors will traverse environmentally sensitive areas, the physical footprint of the proposed development must be limited as far as practically possible;
  - 2.2. Specialist Reports
    - 2.2.1. The Terrestrial Fauna Biodiversity Assessment (compiled by James Harvey) recommendations indicate that alternative 3 is the most preferred. However, in the point numbered 4.3 (i.e. Consideration of Alternative Routes), alternative 1 is the most preferred. Clarification is therefore required;

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- 2.2.2. The recommendations of the Avifauna impact Assessment (dated October 2013) must be taken into account when determining the preferred route alternative.
- 2.2.3. In accordance with Regulation 32(3)(a) and (b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2010, the expertise and the duly dated and originally signed declarations of the following specialists must be included in the submission of the final BAR to the DEA:
  - 2.2.3.1. the Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment (dated March 2013);
  - 2.2.3.2. the Visual Impact Assessment (dated March 2014);
  - 2.2.3.3. the Ecotourism Impact Assessment (dated July 2013); and
  - 2.2.3.4. the Socio-Economic Assessment (dated June 2013).
3. The following comments are related to the draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMP"):
  - 3.1. All recommended mitigation measures identified in the draft EIAR must be included in the draft EMP and must be strictly adhered to.
4. Furthermore, route alternative 1 is deemed the preferred alternative on condition that the abovementioned outstanding concerns are adequately responded to and addressed and the recommended mitigation measures are adhered to.

This Directorate reserves the right to revise or withdraw comments or request further information based on any information received.

Yours faithfully

  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Copies to: (1) Ms. J. Fasheun (Mokgope Consulting)  
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